

FOR much of this season Terry Scott has looked out of his depth in the Wycombe team. But all the time manager Andy Williams, who brought him from Hitchin, insisted that he was worth his place.

The manager's faith and persistence were rewarded on Saturday, when Scott turned in an excellent performance to help Blues to their first Berger Isthmian League victories in six games.

Scott was involved in all three goals as Wanderers not only lifted themselves two places up the table but also helped to erase that deadful meeting with Carshalton at Loakes Park less than a month ago.

Although short of pace, Scott has great ball skills and tactical awareness and it was this latter quality that proved vital in ending Wycombe's depressing run and putting them in good heart for their forthcoming important cup ties.

Old story

Yet at half-time on Saturday, it seemed to be the old, old story. Apart from an excellent chance which Stewart Atkins frittered away, Wanderers created precious few chances, although dictating much of the play.

The most significant feature of the first half was a groin injury suffered by Carshalton's leading scorer Alan Walker, who had to leave the field after six minutes. His departure meant a reshuffle which left striker Richard Reynolds

virtually on his own upfront.

So at half-time there was no score on the board and, frankly, it looked as though the Blues fans were in for yet another goalless draw. But all that changed in a second half crammed with action.

Scott, literally, set the ball rolling in the 54th minute, with a quickly taken free-kick towards the left edge of the penalty area. Atkins crossed at the second attempt into the goalmouth.

Long wait

Alan Phillips had a shot blocked but the ball rebounded to Long who tapped it home with his left foot from short range.

Discounting own goals, that was Wycombe's first league goal in nearly six hours play. But they had only to wait another 14 minutes before scoring again.

From one of three corners taken in quick succession, the ball came to Howard Kennedy just outside the penalty area. Kennedy, who played much better than of late, had time to swing the ball over towards the far post.

Scott cleverly headed back in to the goalmouth. Long's effort was palmed out by goalkeeper Ian Finch straight to Phillips who this time made no mistake from close in. This led to bitter recriminations in the Carshalton defence which was once again caught out.

With a two goal cushion Blues seemed to be cruising to victory. But a momentary lapse of concentration enabled the Robins to come right back into the game. Kennedy, under pressure,

was forced to concede a corner.

Mike Kelly sent his kick to the far post where Steve Bangs outjumped Phillips to head home for the third successive game. Blues must be worried about the number of goals they are conceding from corners. This is something for Mr Williams to work on.

Carshalton attacked furiously in an attempt to force an equaliser. But from a quick break in the 79th minute Wycombe all but wrapped up the result. Kennedy again found room to send a cross towards Scott at the far post and this time the young forward scored himself with a close range header.

Booked

This came two minutes after John Priestley had become the third Wycombe player cautioned this season following a late tackle on Bangs. This is a high number for the sportsmanship-minded club.

Blues were all but home and dry when Carshalton netted a second goal from a corner. This time the ball came out to Graham Dennis who drove a low shot through a forest of players and just inside the right hand post with virtually the last kick of the game.

CARSHALTON: I. Finch, P. Dade, S. Bangs, A. Coombe, P. Gaydon, R. Kember, D. Burke, G. Dennis, R. Reynolds, A. Walker (sub P. Carolan 6 mins), M. Kelly.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, A. Phillips, J. Priestley, S. Atkins (sub D. Evans 84 mins), M. Hollifield, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Scott.

Referee: D. A. Hedges (Oxford).

Half-time 0-0. Scorers: Carshalton—Bangs (69 mins), Dennis (90). Wycombe—Long (54), Phillips (68) Scott (79).